

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	118811
Inspection date	02/07/2009
Inspector	Tina Anne Mason
Type of setting	Childminder

Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

Description of the childminding

The childminder was registered in 1994. She lives with her husband in Rainham, in the London Borough of Havering, close to local shops and community resources and within walking distance of the local park. All areas of the childminder's house are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family have a cat as a pet

The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of four children under eight years old at any one time. Of these, three may be in the early year's age group. The childminder is currently minding two children in the early year's age group. This provision is also registered by Ofsted on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children and attends a local parent and toddler group.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is satisfactory. The childminder supports children well, helping them make steady progress in all areas of their learning and development. The organisation of resources encourages children to make choices and become independent. Children's needs are effectively met and the childminder securely promotes inclusion. The partnership with parents and other settings promotes certain aspects of the children's care and learning. The childminder shows a commitment to maintaining continuous improvement such as addressing previous recommendations; she demonstrates a sound capacity for improvement and has started to evaluate her practice in order to enhance the service she provides. Most safety measures are in place to support children's welfare.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- develop the use of sensitive observational assessment in order to identify and meet children's individual learning and development needs
- plan and provide experiences, based on information from assessment, which will support children in making progress across all areas of learning towards the early learning goals.

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- make a record of risk assessments clearly stating when it was carried out, by whom, date of review and any action taken following a review or incident (Suitable premises, environment and equipment, also applies to the compulsory and voluntary parts of the

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- Childcare Register).
- carry out a full risk assessment for each type of outing and review it before embarking on each specific outing (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare)

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The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder organises her record keeping appropriately for the efficient running of her provision, and has in place several written policies and procedures. Documentation on attendance, accidents and medication are in place; information relating to each individual child is confidential. Although the childminder conducts daily checks on the premises, in the garden and toys, she has not yet conducted a formalised risk assessment to effectively manage any dangers, in line with legislation.

The childminder has a positive outlook and encourages all children to develop positive attitudes to people who are different, including people from other cultures and those with learning and physical disabilities. This is done through discussion, project work, reading books and use of play equipment. The childminder has a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of safeguarding which means children are protected. She knows signs and symptoms of child abuse and who to contact if she has concerns about a child. Before children start, parents visit the house and share information about their children with the childminder such as, individual routines and preferences. Parents talk with the childminder at the end of each day which means they are kept informed about important aspects of their child's learning and welfare.

The childminder demonstrates a general awareness of her strengths and weaknesses and is keen to improve her service. She has recently devised a system for evaluating her own practice to bring about continuous improvement. All recommendations raised at her last inspection have been satisfactorily addressed and result in positive outcomes for children.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are happy and content in the childminder's care. They help themselves to toys and resources which fosters their independence and helps them to become active learners. The childminder supports the children during play by initiating interesting conversation for example, about a particular drawing children are doing and how the water feels on their feet as the children splash around outside during water play. The childminder supports their communication and thinking skills by asking open-ended questions whilst they play.

The childminder provides a suitable range of adult-led and child-initiated play, with emphasis on the children's interests. The daily routine is flexible and includes visits to local places of interest, such as the park or toddler group. The childminder has a general understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and how children learn

through play. She has started to record the children's achievements in diaries. However, these are not completed on a regular basis and do not clearly identify children's achievements or ensure that they are making progress across all six areas of learning.

Their imagination is stimulated through art and craft activities and role-play, for example as they wash the dolls in bowls of soapy water and dress up as doctors and nurses, as well as firemen and policemen. Children have opportunities which promote their physical development when playing outside, for example their balance and co-ordination is improved as they play on wheeled toys and use the climbing frames and slides.

Children behave well, learn to be kind and considerate towards each other, share their toys and take turns. They develop appropriate hygiene habits, such as hand washing, and become aware of healthy food options, with a choice of fresh fruit each day. Children learn how to keep themselves safe, with reminders to be careful during play, and how to safely cross the road when on outings.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

Overall effectiveness

How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	3
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	3

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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Annex B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- undertake a risk assessment of the premises at least once in each calendar year. (Suitability and Safety of Premises and Equipment) 28/08/2009

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified in the compulsory part of the Childcare Register section of the report. (Suitability and Safety of Premises and Equipment) 28/08/2009